

united in marriage April 30, 1949, and are celebrating 56 years of marriage; and

Whereas, Frank and Mary Fregiato were married April 30, 1949, at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Wellsville, OH; and

Whereas, Frank and Mary Fregiato are the loving parents of two children and four grandchildren.

Therefore, I join with the residents of Martins Ferry, and the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in congratulating Frank and Mary Fregiato as they celebrate their 56th Wedding Anniversary.

RECOGNIZING DR. TEX MONIF, MS.
KAREN HICKS, VOLUNTEERS AND
STAFF OF WINNEBAGO DENTAL
CLINIC

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 19, 2005

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I wish to draw attention to the splendid contributions of Dr. Rex Monif, Director of the Winnebago Dental Clinic, and Karen Hicks, RDH, the Senior Dental Hygienist for the Clinic.

Through their efforts, they have been addressing in a meaningful way the dental health needs of the Winnebago tribe of Nebraska.

In March 2005 Dr. Monif and Ms. Hicks recruited 17 dental hygiene students from Iowa Western Community College, in affiliation with Creighton University, who volunteered as clinicians at the Winnebago Clinic.

The group conducted the first annual Children's Dental Sealant Project at the Winnebago Dental Clinic. As part of the project, they performed dental examinations, sealant placements, and fluoride treatments for students at the Winnebago Public School and St. Augustine School.

During the two-day project 320 children were examined and 1,300 sealants were placed. Most of the children also received a fluoride treatment. Parents were alerted to the need for further dental care for those students who were found to need follow-up dental care.

It is a pleasure to recognize Dr. Rex Monif, Ms. Karen Hicks, and the dedicated volunteers and professionals who have been and continue to devote their efforts to the improvement of dental health of the children of the Winnebago Reservation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 19, 2005

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 380, 381, and 382, I was delayed due to flight problems. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all three.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING MARION STEWART ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 19, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Marion was born in New Cumberland, West Virginia on July 19, 1905 and is celebrating her 100th birthday; and

Whereas, Marion Stewart, a graduate of Ohio University in Education, teaching kindergarten and first grade for many years; and

Whereas, Marion Stewart was a faithful and committed member of the Daughters of the American Revolution for 82 years; and

Whereas, Marion Stewart has dedicated her time to the Girl Scouts, Sunday School teaching, service activities, Beacon House activities, where she resides, and the Retired Teachers Association.

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in wishing Marion Stewart a very happy 100th birthday.

INTRODUCTION OF THE
THOMASINA E. JORDAN INDIAN
TRIBES OF VIRGINIA FEDERAL
RECOGNITION ACT

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 19, 2005

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, last week representatives and leaders of Virginia's Native American tribes left their communities and flew to England to participate in ceremonies that are a prelude to the 400th anniversary of the first permanent English settlement in America. Some of the distinguished Virginia residents who are making this trip are the blood descendants and leaders of the surviving 25 tribes that once were a part of the Great Powhatan Confederacy that initially helped sustain the colonists during their difficult first years at Jamestown. Virginia's best known Indian, Pocahontas, traveled to England in 1617 with her husband John Rolfe and was received by English royalty. She died a year later of smallpox and is buried in the chapel of the parish church in Gravesend, England.

My colleagues, there is tragic irony that while the Kings and Queens of England have recognized the Virginia tribes, starting with Pocahontas and affirmatively with the Treaty of 1677, the United States Government has not. Today, the Virginia tribes even sport a T-shirt that says, "First to welcome, last to be recognized."

Mr. Speaker, it's long past time for Virginia's Native American people to be recognized by the Federal Government. Joining me today are my fellow Virginians: Representatives JO ANN DAVIS, TOM DAVIS, BOBBY SCOTT, and Representative DALE KILDEE, in introducing the "Thomasina E. Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia Federal Recognition Act." This legislation will grant Federal recognition to six Indian tribes in Virginia: the Chickahominy Tribe, Chickahominy Indian Tribe Eastern Division,

the Upper Mattaponi, the Rappahannock Tribe, the Monacan Tribe, and the Nansemond Tribe.

As we approach the 400th anniversary of Jamestown, we are long overdue in recognizing the direct descendants of the Native Americans, who met these settlers. We must acknowledge these historic tribes, they have endured and remain a significant part of Virginia's heritage. Together, the men and women of these tribes represent a long neglected part of our Nation's history.

Like much of our early history as a nation, the Virginia tribes were subdued, pushed off their land, and, up through much of the 20th century, denied their full rights as U.S. citizens. Despite their devastating loss of land and population, the Virginia Indians successfully overcame years of racial discrimination that denied them equal opportunities to pursue their full rights as citizens of the United States, from public education, the right to vote, and even the most basic right to claim their own identity.

That story of survival doesn't encompass decades, it spans centuries of racial hostility and coercive State and State-sanctioned actions. Unlike most tribes that resisted encroachment and obtained Federal recognition when they signed peace treaties with the Federal Government, Virginia's six tribes signed their peace treaties with the Kings of England. Most notable among these was the Treaty of 1677 between these tribes and Charles the II.

In more recent times, this racial hostility culminated with the enactment and brutal enforcement of Virginia's Racial Integrity Act of 1924. This act empowered zealots, like Walter Plecker, a state official, to destroy records and reclassify in Orwellian fashion all non-whites as "colored." To call yourself a "Native American" in Virginia was to risk a jail sentence of up to 1 year. Married couples were denied marriage certificates and were unable to obtain the release of their newborn child from a hospital until they changed their ethnicity on the State record to read "colored," not "Native American." For much of the 20th century admission to public schools was denied. Even after federally enforced integration, the State and localities refused to provide bus service to the public high schools. These and other indignities are part of a shameful legacy experienced in our lifetime.

More to the point, this legacy has also complicated these tribes' quest for Federal recognition, making it difficult to furnish corroborating State and official documents. It wasn't until 1997 when then Governor George Allen signed legislation directing state agencies to correct State records that had deliberately been altered to list Virginia Indians on official State documents as "colored." I am proud to say that Senator ALLEN and Senator WARNER are two of Virginia's strongest advocates for seeking a legislative remedy for the Federal Government to recognize these tribes.

Federal recognition would provide what the government has long denied, legal protections and financial obligations, including certain social services and benefits the Federal Government provides the 562-recognized tribes.

I know that the gambling issue may be at the forefront of some people's concerns. For some of my colleagues there are sincere concerns about the morality and destructive effects of gaming. For others, it has been a convenient excuse to look no further and keep a closed mind.

I have worked to close any potential loophole in this legislation to ensure that the Commonwealth of Virginia could prevent casino-type gaming by the tribes. Having worked on this issue for several years, I have gotten to know many of the members of these tribes and believe they are sincere in their claims that gambling is inconsistent with their values. This position is already borne out by the fact that none of the tribes today engage in bingo gambling despite the fact that they have all established non-profit organizations that are permitted under Virginia law to operate bingo games despite compelling financial needs that revenues from bingo could address.

The real issue for the tribes is recognition and the long overdue need for the Federal Government to affirm their identity as Native Americans. Coupled with this affirmation is an opportunity for the tribes to establish a more equitable relationship with the State and secure Federal financial assistance for the tribes' social services, health care and housing needs. Many of their older members face the prospect of retiring without the pensions and health benefits that most Americans take for granted.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

MATTIE J.T. STEPANEK PARK

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 19, 2005

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, on June 24, 2004, this House passed a Resolution, H. Res. 695, honoring Mattie J.T. Stepanek and his "braveness, generosity of spirit, and efforts to raise awareness of Muscular Dystrophy."

Today I am pleased to note the June 18, 2005 groundbreaking for the Mattie J.T. Stepanek Park at King Farm, to be constructed on the corner of Crestfield and Piccard Drive in Rockville, MD. Dedicated to a young man whose courage and vision for peace provide an example for all, his park will become a favorite for Maryland residents and visitors.

A young poet who was diagnosed with neuromuscular disease known as dysautonomic mitochondrial myopathy, Mattie Stepanek achieved international recognition when his collection of poems, *Journey Through Heartsongs*, which reached the New York Times Best Seller List in 2002. Mattie also authored four other books of poetry. He served as the National Goodwill Ambassador for the Muscular Dystrophy Association in 2002, 2003, and 2004, and in 2004 the Jerry Lewis MDA Telethon was dedicated to him. Mattie also befriended Oprah Winfrey, and was featured often as a guest on her television program.

One of his goals was to meet his hero, former President Jimmy Carter. When Mattie was hospitalized in September 2001, he got his chance. Nurses and staff recall that during their 15-minute conversation, Mattie did not discuss his illness with President Carter, focusing instead on problems affecting developing nations.

The former President and Mattie developed a close friendship, and when Mattie passed away on June 22, 2004 at the age of 13,

President Carter delivered a eulogy in which he recalled winning the Nobel Peace Prize. "Mattie shared the honor that I had received," he noted.

Mattie was a gifted poet, and a great companion to his mother, Jeni Stepanek. Mattie's sister, Katie, and his two brothers, Stevie and Jamie, died in early childhood from the same disease Mattie battled.

Plans for the 26.2-acre memorial park include a statue of Mattie with his golden retriever, Micah. The park will plan activities specially designed for people with disabilities, and it will host an event each year for local schools in the spirit of Mattie's passion for peace.

Mr. Speaker, Mattie was a child filled with compassion and imagination. He won the respect and friendship of a President and Nobel laureate, who continues to call Mattie the "most extraordinary person whom [he has] ever known."

No one who met Mattie Stepanek could ever forget him. Now future generations of Marylanders—who will not have that opportunity—will be able to visit Mattie's park, celebrate his life, and enjoy the sunsets he loved so much.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
TOM HARDY

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 19, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Tom Hardy has provided outstanding service and contributions while affiliated with the Ohio Association of Insurance Agents, Inc. serving it since 1976 and at different times holding the positions of executive vice president and chief executive officer; and

Whereas, Tom Hardy's many accomplishments include being the creator, publisher, and editor of Ohio Insurance magazine and guiding the continual growth of the Association with dedication and strong leadership; and

Whereas, Tom Hardy has served on the Board of Directors of the Griffith Foundation for Insurance Education at the Ohio State University where he received his degree in 1971 as well as giving his talents to multiple other organizations within his field; and

Whereas, Tom Hardy has worked selflessly and with dignity as an integral part of various committees of the Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of America, being the longest serving state executor in the Nation.

Therefore, I join with Tom Hardy's family, friends, and the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in commending Tom Hardy for his exceptional work and years of service, and wish him the very best in his future endeavors.

WELCOMING HER MAJESTY'S CANADIAN SHIP "TORONTO" TO
CLEVELAND, OH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 19, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome Her Majesty's Canadian Ship *To-*

ronto, where she makes Cleveland her first United States stop on a series of port calls along the Great Lakes on Friday, July 15, 2005.

The HMCS *Toronto* is a multi-role patrol frigate built in St. John, NB, in 1992 and commissioned in Toronto, ON, in 1993. Certified operational in 1994 and homeported in Halifax, NS, the *Toronto* has distinguished itself and Canada through its participation in some of the world's most sensitive operations of the last decade.

The *Toronto* participated in Operation Sharp Guard in 1994, patrolling of the coast of the former Yugoslavia to restrict importation of arms and fuel in an effort to end the civil war in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In 1995, the *Toronto* joined Operation Victory in Europe, an international flotilla of warships celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Allies' victory in Europe. As part of the Standing Naval Force Atlantic in 1997, the *Toronto* deployed for North Atlantic operations with the NATO squadron and was involved in a major search and rescue operation off the coast of Spain. In 1998, the *Toronto* participated in U.N. patrols in the northern Arabian Gulf to affect an embargo against Iraq. In November of that year, the *Toronto* became the flagship for the Canadian Task Group Atlantic, beginning an intensive year of operation, sailing in every Task Group exercise.

In 1999, the *Toronto* participated in Exercise El Morro Castle, a series of successful missile engagements against target drones and missiles, confirming the effectiveness of the ship's advanced missile defense system and crew's training. As part of the 2000 Search and Rescue operation at the site of the sinking M/V *Leader L*, the crew was involved in the rescue of 13 crew members in an accident in which 18 men perished. The following year, the *Toronto* responded to a distress call of a sinking fishing boat while conducting work-ups off the Nova Scotia coast and rescued three crew members in an accident that claimed one life. In 2001–02, the *Toronto* deployed in the eastern Mediterranean with NATO's Standing Naval Force Atlantic, and later to the northern Arabian Sea in international security operations. In 2003, the *Toronto* participated in Operation Splinter, aiding in the clean-up and restoration of Halifax following the devastation of Hurricane Juan. Last year, the *Toronto* returned to the Arabian Sea, the Gulf of Oman, and the Arabian Gulf as Canada's contribution to the global war on terrorism.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I am pleased that the officers and crew of the HMCS *Toronto* chose Cleveland as their first U.S. stop on the 2005 Great Lakes Tour. I welcome the *Toronto* to Cleveland and wish the *Toronto*, its officers and crew, and Canada, much success in their endeavors around the world.

CALL FOR MORE ROBUST TIES
WITH GULF OF GUINEA REGION

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 19, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise the release of a very timely report which documents an issue of growing importance to the United States. The report, entitled